

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2004

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on November 22, 2004 in Room 830, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Davalos noted the lack of a quorum and called a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 10:08 a.m. The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Davalos
Vice President Lesser
Commissioner Creary
Commissioner Rodriguez

Introduction of the audience followed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Davalos discussed and distributed the following newspaper articles for the Commission to review:

- A *Newsweek* article on health care entitled "For a Happy Heart."
- An article on the "Los Angeles County Universal Preschool - First 5 LA Program" which is a master preschool plan for Los Angeles County that will be launched in Spring 2005;
- The *LA Alternative Press Newsletter* featuring an article on "Kids on the Skids."

She then asked staff to submit First 5 LA information to the Commission for Children and Families (CCF) and invite CCF to speak at an upcoming Commission meeting. In addition, President Davalos attended the Mexican Cultural Institute 8th Annual Gala Dinner "Estrellas de Nuestra Cultura (Stars of Our Culture)." This year they honored Montezuma Esparza, Robert Graham, and Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- The Governor's Conference is December 7, 2004. The workshops will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and some of the panelists include Dr. Laura Schlessinger, Deborah Roberts of ABC News, and Dr. Wayne Dyer. Oprah Winfrey is also attending.
- The Commission's letterhead has been updated to display the new County logo.

SELECTION OF A HOLIDAY GATHERING SITE

Staff distributed information on local restaurants and their menus to the Commissioners. Following discussion, Commissioners selected the restaurant Patina at the Disney Concert Hall and instructed staff to make the necessary arrangements. The luncheon expense will be taken from the President's Fund until the Commission approves reimbursement from the Commissioners' Fund.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AT CEDAR SINAI WOMEN'S HEALTH RESOURCES CENTER

Amy Sriberg, Outreach Coordinator of the Women's Health Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, distributed black tote bags with various documents on health care. She provided a brief synopsis on the documents and on programs affiliated with the Women's Health Resource Center. In the bag were flyers on the Women's Health Resource Center, which is a project of the Women's Guild, the Women's Health Research Registry, the Women's Health Conference, and a survey, entitled "Cardiac Risk Check List." The Women's Health Resource Center provides wellness screening that identifies women that are at risk for developing chronic life-threatening diseases and material to help women learn the steps necessary to avoid potential risks.

She went on to report that the Women's Health Research Registry is a database that contains health information on women interested in volunteering for clinical trials. She further announced that the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's Fourth Annual Women's Health Conference will host identical sessions on March 3 and 4, 2005 at the Harvey Morse Auditorium located at the Medical Center.

President Davalos thanked Ms. Sriberg for her informative presentation.

LET'S FACE IT: WOMEN EXPLORE THEIR AGING FACES

President Davalos presented a 20 minute DVD entitled, "Let's Face It: Women Explore Their Aging Faces". The documentary was an up close and personal look at about 6 women over 40 who candidly discuss issues related to aging and its effects on their facial features.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee: Commissioner Creary spoke on an article from the *Los Angeles Sentinel* which provided an alternate perspective on whether or not to save King/Drew Medical Center and an article of the *Los Angeles Times California Section* entitled, "A Family Struggle, a Nation's Shame." The *Times* article addressed the plight of a family residing in East Los Angeles in need of health insurance. Commissioner Rodriguez, who has forwarded the article to the First District, suggested discussing these types of

community needs at an upcoming First District community meeting. Commissioner Creary then suggested that the Commission purchase tickets to the Women's Health Conference as soon as possible.

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones joined the meeting).

Domestic Violence Committee: Commissioner Rodriguez reported that, First District Deputy Luisa Ollague is conducting a survey of the domestic violence providers in the First District to determine the quality of assistance provided by the Department of Community and Senior Services (CSS). Under consideration is moving shelter services from the CSS to the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).

Legislative Committee: There was no report.

Media/Public Relations Committee: There was no report.

Older Women's Issues Committee: There was no report.

Education/Scholarship Presentation: Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported on plans for the scholarship presentation scheduled for January 11, 2004. She is in the process of selecting people to sit on the nomination committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Yvonne LaRose circulated a brochure about an organization seeking funding for families in Kenya.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Creary attended the musical *Caroline, or Change*, which benefited the Youth in Need of Theater Program on November 13, 2004, and the First A.M.E. Church farewell ceremony to Pastor Cecil Murray on November 14, 2004. She also plans to attend the swearing in ceremony for Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke on December 6, 2004.

Vice President Lesser attended the Consumer Speaker's Series with guest speaker William Bennett, author of the *Book of Virtues*; a Manhattan Beach Neighborhood Watch meeting which discussed scams against elderly women; and the farewell party for Dorothy Courtney, the director of the Ridgestone Family Center in Hawthorne for 23 years.

Commissioner Becerra-Jones visited USC Hospital and attended their diabetes class, participated in the First Family Health Fair in El Monte, and attended the opening of the new Latino Diabetic Council.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA: There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Karin Davalos, President
Charlotte Lesser, Vice President
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Ruth Creary, Ph.D
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Reiko Duba, Treasurer
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Bonnie J. Lewis
Janet Mummey, Esq.
Lila Morgan
Barbara Perkins

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Executive Office Staff: Khanh Nguyen, Steve Erickson, Nyla Jefferson, Vera Orloff and Gabriel Alexander

GUESTS

Yvonne LaRose
Amy Striberg